

# the otherpress

The Douglas College Newspaper Since 1976

Volume 42

February 16, 2016

Issue 20



COMEDY IN VANCOUVER





# Dream on

I love sleeping. Bed, cat, pillows, blankets that go on for days—no need to ask me twice. However, as with most things in life, what we want, what we need, and what we get are three very different things. My Sunday to Tuesday stretch is usually the toughest part of the week. Edits and emails take up most of my day before culminating in a glorious descent to whatever flat surface first appeals to me when I drag myself through the door at two in the morning. And then I’m generally up again by 5:00 a.m. for an early shift at the beloved other job serving coffee to patrons equally as surly as myself. The wearied act of shuffling

through the entrance to bleary-eyed co-workers tires quickly. And you’d think, so would the ceaseless questions of, “You got how much sleep?” and, “How are you even on your feet?” and a few comments along the lines of, “I don’t know how you do it,” but they don’t. Fact is, in a weird way, I had always taken them with a severely misguided sense of pride. It’s like the marathoner pushing hard for the finish as bewildered spectators marvel at the sheer determination on display. But day-to-day life isn’t a race. It’s no marathon. At least it’s not supposed to be. I know for a fact that the egotistical bags under my eyes are not unique to my

situation. Many share in this disturbing desire to deprive oneself of necessary rest; many take the surprise, shock, and sometimes horror of those around them to be pats on the back or even silent admiration. This mentality needs to stop. Glorifying unhealthy lifestyles is a completely backward way to go about things. This is supposed to be the 21st century—an age of realizing what’s best for our bodies and not encouraging destructive behaviour. An easy parallel would be a model suffering from bulimia. How amazing, how remarkable, that someone can eat whatever they want and then suffer none of the fattening consequences. Truly

a life that has it all. Kudos. These words sound insane. An archaic thought process more likely to be shamed nowadays than praised. Sleep is no different. According to the National Sleep Foundation, adults between the ages of 18 and 64 require between 7 and 9 hours of sleep *every night*. Not every other night. Not split between two. Every night. How unhealthy is it? Sleep deprivation leaves one at risk of heart disease, heart attacks, heart failure, irregular heartbeats, high blood pressure, strokes, and diabetes, to touch on a few. You’re also not as sharp mentally, can see a reduced sex drive, and gain

weight in the process. At some point, that imaginary badge superimposed on your chest becomes very trivial indeed. So don’t let the sandman be a mythical creature in your life. And don’t allow yourself to be “impressed” by those who fail to get their required rest. You need sleep to be the best person you can be, and in order to be healthy, you need to *think* healthy.

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☒ The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

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  - ✓ Conserve water, save money
  - ✓ Number of at-risk women in Coquitlam on the rise
- And more!



Image via huffpost.com

## Coquitlam student charged with animal cruelty

› Dog near death after student allegedly starves it

Mercedes Deutscher  
News Editor

Three animal cruelty charges have been laid against Yu Lin, a 24-year-old former Coquitlam resident and SFU student who allegedly abandoned his starved pet Husky, Willow, in Maple Ridge.

While the SPCA had

identified Lin in their investigation shortly after Willow was found in January 2015, charges have only recently been laid. The Crown has been working through a large number of animal cruelty charges and cases.

"This wasn't a situation of finances, intelligence, and ability. It's just neglect and cruelty," said Marcie Moriarty

of the BC SPCA to CTV. "He has clearly demonstrated a lack of ability to care for an animal."

Lin will make his first court appearance on March 1.

Should Lin be convicted, he will likely receive a lifetime ban from owning animals, a fine of up to \$75,000, and two years imprisonment.

Willow first made local headlines when she was

found abandoned in Maple Ridge last January. She was 11 kilograms underweight and struggling to walk.

In an interview with *Maple Ridge News*, Lorie Chortyk of the local SPCA described Willow as: "assessed with a score of 'one' on the canine body conditioning scale of one to nine, meaning that she was severely malnourished."

Willow had been found

with gravel in her digestive tract, which veterinarians suspected was eaten by Willow to try to stay alive. She could not lie down due to pain caused by the gravel.

Thankfully, Willow was able to make a speedy and full recovery within six weeks, and was adopted by a Maple Ridge family last March.

## Fentanyl drug bust includes New West townhouse

› Millions of dollars' worth of property seized

Aaron Guillen  
Staff Reporter

Back in the fall of 2014, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) had suspicions of drug trafficking to residents in the Downtown's Eastside with potential shipping to Vancouver Island and Alberta, and began an investigation known as Project Trooper. Little did they know that the seven month-long investigation would open up a treasure trove of drugs, guns, and money. Thanks to 11 search warrants spanning multiple cities from Vancouver to Maple Ridge, the investigators were able to begin to place the pieces of the puzzle together.

By April 2015, the VPD had finally cracked the case and brought a sophisticated drug distribution network to its knees.

Nearly 10 months later,

charges have been placed against 6 people. The accused, all in their 30s and 40s, each hold multiple counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, with four of them charged for possession of a restricted or prohibited weapon with access to ammunition without a license.

The items seized included "\$575,000 in cash, 19 kilograms of cocaine, 1.7 kilograms of heroin, 12.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, 23,763 fentanyl pills, 228 kilograms of phenacetin, 6 handguns, 2 shotguns, 4 rifles, 8 vehicles (4 with hidden compartments), and an estimated \$3.78 million in property including a Downtown Eastside apartment building, a New Westminster townhouse, and a Coquitlam home," according to the VPD's media release.

Last year, a group of provincial health organizations,

alongside the VPD, rolled out an awareness campaign focused on the dangers of fentanyl. In an effort to educate those who know little to none about the drug, police simply want users to become more cautious with their suppliers and the possibility of lethal doses.

"Project Trooper is another example of the alliance between law enforcement agencies in the Lower Mainland," said Vancouver Police Superintendent Mike Porteous in a press release. "We have a common goal, and that is to target violent and dangerous criminals and take them off the street."

On a similar note, VPD officials have been notified of high numbers of drug overdoses since the end of January. Police have counted 11 deaths due to overdoses in the Downtown's Eastside neighbourhood in the past 16 days preceding February



Image via winnipegfreepress.com

5, well above the average of 3 deaths a week. Fentanyl is suspected to be the cause.

Thanks to the initiative KnowYourSource.org, civilians have no excuse to be unaware of the deadly consequences. The symptoms of a fentanyl overdose

are sleepiness, slow heartbeat, shallow breathing, clammy skin, and trouble walking and/or talking. If a person chooses to use fentanyl, the organization advises the user to be sure to use only a small amount and never to do it alone.



# National Sweater Day video spurs negative reaction from faculty

› Video has been called 'offensive' and 'inappropriate'

Max Hill  
The Peak (Simon Fraser University)

A video posted on SFU's YouTube page and distributed by SFU Facilities Services has been removed following negative reactions from faculty members and students. The video, originally released in 2014, promotes National Sweater Day, a yearly observation meant to promote energy conservation. It depicts a casual exchange between a female instructor and a male student.

In an entry on her personal blog, Department of History faculty member Elise Chenier criticized the video at length: "When the very place you work promotes the kind of sexism that your intellectual work seeks to contest and ultimately, destroy, you feel like you are being eaten from the inside out. There was once a time when I would have seen the video is simply outdated, idiotic, and yes, offensive, but

now I see it much differently.

"Now I feel the harm it does, and not just to Miss Pinkham, but also to her male student who is encouraged to relate to half the population on such a limited level, and who himself then is defined by his heterosexual desire for women."

Chenier also claimed that "the collective outrage of female faculty resulted in the video being removed from the SFU website."

Many took to Twitter to express their outrage at the videos, including SFU faculty members Esther Verheyen, Jeremy Snyder, and Kevin Morse.

When the video was first released in 2014, it did not receive the same negative feedback on Twitter, with one commenter referring to it as "clever." However, *The Peak* was unable to find any positive comments towards the video from this year.

SFU has since sent several apologies via their public Twitter account and deleted the video from their website

and YouTube account.

Joanne Curry, Vice President External Relations, sent an email via University Communications apologizing for the video.

"As the video was produced by an external vendor, I had not seen it. When I did watch it, I immediately agreed with the feedback we had received that the video is inappropriate, sexist, and not in keeping with our equity commitment," Curry wrote. "We took steps to remove the video as quickly as possible and have followed up with the group who produced and distributed the video to ensure it will no longer be used."

Curry detailed plans to review University Communications' policy on reposting videos and other content, noting that "future requests to share information by email to the SFU community will be vetted by leaders within University Communication," and "staff of the department responsible for this video will be



Image via www.the-peak.ca

required to undergo appropriate training to ensure an equitable and safe work environment for everyone in the SFU community."

An official statement posted on SFU's website, also penned by Curry, echoed many of her statements from her email,

adding: "We plan to investigate how this video was posted and plan to put into place additional procedures to ensure that this will not happen again in the future."

"We appreciate your patience in this matter."

# Renovations underway at New West campus

› Growing student population calls for upgrades



Image via www.douglaspresident.ca

Aaron Guillen  
Staff Reporter

Since February 8, construction has been taking place in the 0600/1600 area of the New Westminster Campus, the long hallway to the left after passing through the Bookstore. College officials announced at the beginning of the month that they were planning to renovate the lower area of the campus.

"This will be the largest renovation at New Westminster campus since its opening in 1982. The project will include classroom upgrades such as energy efficient lighting, HVAC systems and state-of-the-art AV technology for instructors," states the school blog.

Covering around 3,000 square metres, the renovation promises to improve students' learning experience and place priority on an Engineering

Foundations Certificate and Engineering Essentials program. There will be 22 new classrooms and lab spaces by the project's end.

Tentatively on course for completion by August, students should be cautious along Victoria Street, the hub of construction preparation and demolition. For safety reasons, Douglas officials warn pedestrians to avoid the street, due to closed sidewalks and

potential construction fencing. Students should expect single-lane traffic along the road and periodical closures to the parkade during major renovation days.

"As with any construction, there will be occasional noise and minor disruptions. Some classes will be moved to new rooms to ensure the expected noise does not impact students or teachers."

Many questions are raised

by this six-month project. Will new students be able to access the new and renovated spaces by Fall 2016? How much will this renovation cost, and will that affect the ever-rising tuition rates for the next few semesters? Douglas College has yet to confirm the estimated price tag, although one could speculate there will be a reveal during the college's Annual General Meeting on February 24.



# Conserve water, save money

› New West suggests water metering for homes

Aaron Guillen  
Staff Reporter

This past summer, BC temperatures reached all-time highs, fires lit up across BC, and water restrictions were imposed. Strict laws were announced via television screens and newspaper headlines reminding civilians to avoid using unnecessary amounts of water.

Now, the City of New Westminster has decided to approach this situation from another angle, in hopes to convince residents to be more watchful of their water usage.

New Westminster Environmental Partners have been encouraging the city to adopt a voluntary water metering system for homes. Andrew Murray, a member of the environmentally aware organization, explained to the New Westminster Record that a metering program is substantially better compared to the current flat-rate pricing system in the city.

"We are looking for water conservation, and water

metering delivers that. People only have to pay for what they use under a water-metering pricing system," Murray said.

"The evidence clearly indicates that for those who are prudent with their water use on water meters, they save a considerable amount of money on their water bills annually. Frankly, the savings are in the hundreds of dollars in some examples. That's the problem with a flat-rate pricing system—it doesn't reward those who conserve water."

Steven Renzetti, an economics professor specializing in water at Brock University, spoke to the Globe and Mail about the benefits of this untapped money-saving scheme for many across the country. Renzetti argued that those who used a meter versus those who did not were separated by a 40–45 per cent in water usage.

According to the Globe and Mail, Vancouver's introduction of mandatory water metering for new and renovated homes left over 85,000 homes with the flat-rate system. Similarly,

the City of North Vancouver made almost 40 per cent of homes "meter-ready" for future universal system plans, but left the remainder on their own. The City of Richmond has been a frontrunner in the reach for complete water metering, aiming to implement mandatory water meters in every home by 2018.

Unsurprisingly, the controversy over the cost for water metering remains. With an estimated \$1,000–1,500 price tag for each installation, many cities are swayed to look for other conservation methods.

Mayor Jonathan Cote said to the New Westminster Record that although the city briefly looked at metering back in 2008 and decided against it, the recent events over the past summer has made the council reconsider the project.

"Water meters are the wave of the future," testified Renzetti. "In areas with growing population, pressure on water resources, anticipated challenges in meeting future demands, metering is going to be part of the equation."

## Number of at-risk women in Coquitlam on the rise

» Recent shelter opening shows increase of female users

Mercedes Deutscher  
News Editor

There has been an influx of women utilizing a recently-opened shelter at 3030 Gordon Avenue in Coquitlam.

Whereas Coquitlam's shelters have mainly been used by men in the past, the ratio of men and women using the shelter has nearly reached parity.

The shelter on Gordon Avenue—which opened its doors last December—has proved a popular choice both for Coquitlam's at-risk women and overall, as the shelter provides meals, counselling services, and security through several security cameras and private dorms that can be locked. Those needing to stay for longer may qualify to live in a transitional, semi-suite housing unit; may be moved into a transition house; or be prepared for permanent housing.

It is suspected that many of these women-in-need have arrived at the shelters as a result of violent and abusive situations. Some of them were asked for

statements by *Tri-City News*, and while they were willing to give a statement, they asked for anonymity due to safety.

Those who have used the shelter have given it glowing reviews. One anonymous woman said to *Tri-City News*: "The staff and management let you do your own thing, but they keep an eye out." Another said: "It's an open door, it's good."

Joy's Place is another shelter in Port-Coquitlam, exclusively for women and their dependent children. They provide housing, as well as counselling and support services for their tenants.

The Gordon Avenue shelter, run by RainCity Housing, has been keeping attendance of those who are regulars at the shelter for safety. A policy of the shelter is to report a regular missing should they not appear for three days. While it is important to ensure that all of Coquitlam's at-risk population is safe, there have been extra efforts to prioritize the safety of women in the community.

RainCity Housing provides

shelters and services for women all throughout the Lower Mainland. They operate The Vivian and The Budzey, both of which are women's shelters in Vancouver. The organization also provides shelters for at-risk LGBTQ2S persons and for minorities.

RainCity Housing hopes to carry on the goals of the now-defunct BC's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, which was established in 2010 to bring closure to the dozens of missing and murdered women from the Downtown Eastside, of which anywhere from 6–49 were murdered by Robert Pickton. The commission was closed in August 2013.

Prior to their closing, the Commission outlined several ways that Lower Mainland communities could keep at-risk women safe. For example, the commission suggested liaisons and protective actions for Aboriginal women and women involved in the sex trade, as well as more community service from the local authorities.



## Coquitlam-Burke Mountain and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant elect new MLAs

› By-election leads to historical appointment

Cazzy Lewchuk  
Staff Writer

On February 2, two new members of the legislative assembly were elected in the Lower Mainland following a by-election.

The seats were held until last year, when both occupants stepped down to run in the federal election. Jenny Kwan, the former Vancouver-Mount Pleasant MLA, was successful in her run, and is currently an NDP MP for Vancouver East. Former Coquitlam-Burke Mountain MLA Doug Horne ran under the Conservative Party despite being a BC Liberal. Horne's run was unsuccessful.

Jodie Wickens and Melanie Mark, the newly elected MLAs for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant respectively, are both members of the NDP. Both of the women's elections mark historical significance. Wickens, 33, is now the youngest provincial politician in British Columbia. Mark, 40, holds the distinction of being the first woman of First Nations descent elected to the BC Legislative Assembly.

Wickens, who has a son with autism, is a former Executive Director for the Autism Support Network—a BC organization that provides resources for children and their families with autism. As stated on her website, Wickens "is a strong advocate working to ensure that our kids get

the education they deserve." Material from her website also asserts her dedication, which stems from having two children in the school district. Coquitlam currently receives the lowest education funding per student in the province.

Born and raised in the Mount Pleasant area, Melanie Mark has a long history of volunteering and working with organizations that help Aboriginal people, particularly youth. She herself grew up in social housing and foster care among Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, part of the Mount Pleasant riding and one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Canada. Mark is Gitksan, Ojibway, Cree, and Nisga'a, and a single mother of two children.

Mark's victory came in a landslide, elected by over 61 per cent of the popular vote, compared to Green Party candidate Pete Fry at 26 per cent. Wickens' win was much narrower at 46 per cent, compared to Liberal candidate Joan Isaacs' 38 per cent. The victory in Mount Pleasant continues the NDP's hold of the riding since its inception in 1991, whereas the NDP win in Burke-Mountain is the first since the riding's creation in 2009.

A finalized count was released by Elections BC on February 9. Due to these results, the BC Liberals now hold 46 seats, with the NDP holding 35, and 2 spots held by independents. The next BC provincial election is currently scheduled for May 7, 2017.

## Some style, but no substance

### > 'Carol' review

Brittni MacKenzie-Dale  
The Phoenix (UBC Okanagan)

The eponymous Carol meets young photographer Therese Belivet in 1950s Manhattan in *Carol*, a film based on Patricia Highsmith's ground-breaking lesbian romance *The Price of Salt*. Director Edward Lachman gives us a wonderfully nostalgic look at post-war New York. As a slow romance builds between the two leading women, dastardly consequences arise within their personal lives. As social commentary, *Carol* works to a degree—when the novel was published in the late 40s, the subject matter was more risqué and thus the plot was more honest—but in terms of narrative, the film is a bore.

Romance is forfeited for nonstop tension. Therese and Carol spend little time building on-screen chemistry through humour or fun—instead, we see them nearly solely struggling with guilt. Given the temporal context,

this makes sense, but it also makes it harder to feel anything for these two women as they never quite read as nuanced, real people.

A promising first third leads way to a disappointing middle act and climax. *Carol* is simultaneously on-the-nose (an early dinner scene between the two women seems like a parody of subtext) and subtle to the point of catatonia. Moments that should feel flirty, sexy, and moving read like a checklist: it's all stage play and no grit. The costumes are stunning and the women are breathtaking, but there is little character study and plot progression. The one sex scene, a welcome reprieve from the dull flirtations throughout, comes too little too late.

The best moments in *Carol* unfortunately don't stem from the main conflict, but from the subplot between Carol and her husband. Two powerful scenes—when her husband believes, rightfully, that Carol is being unfaithful, and a moving child custody scene near the



Image via www.telegraph.co.uk

end—are memorable and hard-hitting. Thankfully, these moments are strong enough to help keep audience attention.

Unfortunately, the usually-fantastic Rooney Mara delivers a

wooden performance. Her skills are underutilized, ostensibly by no fault of her own. The great Cate Blanchett and the even better Kyle Chandler do their best to save Phyllis Nagy's flimsy

script, but with poor character development and little chemistry between the two leads, this is an almost impossible task. Gorgeous but largely vacuous, *Carol* never lives up to its potential.

## Marvel's funniest anti-hero

### > 'Deadpool' film review

Lauren Paulsen  
Senior Columnist



I think *Deadpool* is my new favourite Marvel movie. I knew going into the movie I would enjoy it, having seen the trailers, but I didn't know that I would enjoy it this much. I honestly knew very little about *Deadpool* outside of what the trailers had shown. I'd heard his name before, but he wasn't a Marvel character I was familiar with, so I went into the movie fairly blind. Now I can't wait to see more of him.

*Deadpool's* humour is its greatest selling point. I haven't been to many movies that elicited so much laughter from the audience. Just the opening credits set the tone, and Deadpool's breaking of the fourth wall only added to it. Even his incessant pop-culture references never seemed out of place. A memorable one for me was a shot of *Time* with Deadpool portraying Ryan Reynolds on

the cover as sexiest man alive, contrasting his horribly scarred appearance as Deadpool.

Reynolds did an amazing job of portraying Deadpool's character. His sarcastic, macabre, and dirty humour was a riot. I thought the jokes might get old partway through the movie, but they managed to stay fresh for the duration of the film. The makeup crew also did an amazing job of making Reynolds look ugly—who knew that was even possible? I also really enjoyed the fight scenes. They were choreographed quite well.

The movie never takes itself seriously, and that works. There are many times when Deadpool pokes fun at his own film's lack of budget, such as explaining why there were only two X-Men in the movie. Some of the CGI wasn't all that great, but that might have been another meta-joke.

Compared to other Marvel films, I really liked the movie's unconventional content. It definitely has an "R" rating for a reason. It's probably the most violent, gory, profanity-



Image via 2016 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

laced superhero movie I have ever seen. But let's not forget, *Deadpool* isn't really a hero. He says so himself many times.

If you like comic books and crude humor, I recommend you go see *Deadpool*. Just make sure that you know what you are

getting into. I will never look at avocados the same way again.



# Flawed By Design: Graphical infidelity

> How the graphics race changed gaming

Adam Tatelman  
Arts Editor

What's uncanny about the advancement of graphics in games is the way it has both spurred and restrained game design. Early on, the push for better looking games resulted in more powerful machines that could process more complex and interesting mechanics. Graphics didn't just change the way games looked—they helped change what games could do, and the way they were marketed. However, relatively little has changed in terms of gameplay over the last three generations. While games may look better, the ideas and mechanics on hand have barely changed since the early 2000s.

Most people think that Nintendo was the first company to market a home gaming console. That's not exactly true. The very first home console for television was the Magnavox Odyssey, released in 1972. It was later licenced to Nintendo in 1974, and was beat out by the Atari 2600, which reigned as the sales king of the second console generation. The NES wasn't released in North America until 1983, inspiring rival company Sega to release the Master System two years later. This was the beginning of a free market arms race for even better graphics technology that changed

the face of gaming forever.

To explain what a "bit" is in computer parlance would be extremely boring, so suffice it to say that it's a way of expressing how much information your console can process. The NES and Master System were 8-bit consoles, and their graphics were very primitive. As such, they had to rely on abstract ideas and imagery to express their visuals. How did we know Mario was a human? Well, he looked like a blocky person. The animated blocks illustrating Mario are called pixels; together, they are called sprites. These are the very building blocks of everything we call graphics today.

In the fourth console generation, Nintendo and Sega moved from 8- to 16-bit consoles with the Super Nintendo and the Sega Genesis. This allowed for a higher pixel count and more detailed and colourful graphics, smoother animations, and forays into experimental realms like multi-layered tile backgrounds and pseudo-3-D scaling. This advancement allowed for a commercial explosion the likes of which had never been seen in gaming. Gaming companies started to market themselves on the power of their consoles, in addition to their extensive game libraries.

In their zest to outpace Nintendo's graphical advances, Sega engineered a number of poor add-ons to the Genesis.



Image via Doom copyright Bethesda Softworks

It began with the Sega CD, the first home console with CD-ROM support. Unfortunately, the game library was small and obscure, and the CD disk space was mostly clogged by full motion video cutscenes with awful resolution. The Sega 32X promised the first 32-bit games in full 3-D. Though its transition from pixels to polygons laid the groundwork for future 3-D games, Sega's technology was not yet advanced enough to make those games look good.

The release of the Nintendo 64, the first 64-bit console offering decent-looking full 3-D games, marked a turning point in the graphics race. The Sega

Saturn was edged out by the Sony PlayStation, which improved on many of the ideas that the Sega CD flubbed. This transition to 3-D as the gold standard for graphics sparked off a new generation of console wars, this time between Nintendo, Sony, and the newcomer Microsoft. Three generations later, the games industry as we know it had come into being.

Most are quick to cry "gameplay over graphics" without realizing that graphics have been a part of the driving force behind innovation in design. But it is also important to realize when a limit has been reached. Like the 32X, the modern

industry is what happens when presentation is prioritized above all else. Rampant sequelization and market oversaturation becomes inevitable, because a sustainable quality apex has been reached, and the race for graphical quality no longer brings technical innovation with it.

Consider the printing press by way of analogy. The first text ever printed was the Bible. For years after, the presses made advances in print quality, but the most commonly printed text was still the Bible. The solution for games is to stop inventing prettier new fonts for the Bible to be printed in, and start printing things other than the Bible.

## Arcade from hell

> 'Ghosts 'n Goblins' video game review

Lauren Paulsen  
Senior Columnist



There are many games that give me a fond sense of nostalgia for my childhood. The original *Ghosts 'n Goblins* is one of them. This side-scrolling arcade game may be older than me, but that doesn't diminish its entertainment value.

*Ghosts 'n Goblins* has a thin plot, but you can't expect much from a 30-year-old game. You play as a knight named Sir Arthur on a quest to save his lover, who has been kidnapped by Satan. You must defeat many monsters along the way, carving a path through six different stages before you have a climactic battle with Satan. At least, I think that's what happens. I've never gotten past level four.

This is not from lack of trying. My brother and I have tried again and again to beat this game. It is so notoriously hard that we would rage-quit and not touch it again for long periods of time. I don't think I've ever come across such a difficult arcade game.

What makes the game so brutal is that you can only take damage twice before you die. If you get hit once, you lose your suit of armour and have to run around in your underpants until you get another. Once you're hit a second time, you're dead. To top that off, you have to restart every level at the beginning, or, if you're fortunate enough, a midway checkpoint. And you have to do it all under a time limit. If you run out of time, you instantly lose a life.

I'm usually very good at video games, yet I find this one very challenging. I can't even use the



Screenshot from the arcade version of "Ghosts 'N Goblins"

excuse that I was a child, because I've played *Ghosts 'n Goblins* as an adult, and I still find it just as challenging. I'd recommend this

oldie as a gem for avid gamers, although some will be turned off by its extreme difficulty. You can find it online to play for free.

Someday I will get through all of those levels. I hope you can too.



# Chairman of the Board: Back to basics

## > 'Stone Age' board game review

Ed Appleby  
Illustrator

Imagine, if you will, that every day you have to take down a giant mammoth with a sharpened stick in order for you and your tribe to survive. Bet that puts your job at Starbucks into perspective.

*Stone Age* is a worker placement game for 2–4 players designed by Bernd Brunnhofer and published by Z-Man Games in 2008. Players place their prehistoric workers to hunt, gather, breed, make tools, build huts, or trade. The first player, called the chieftain, rotates every round. Play continues until either the building or trading deck runs out.

*Stone Age* adds a novel element to the worker placement style of gameplay. Most worker placement games, such as *Carcassonne* or *Lords of Waterdeep*, provide a set number

of points or resources acquired per task. In *Stone Age*, once workers are sent out to harvest resources, a dice roll is used to determine the level of success. One die is rolled for each worker committed to the task, and then the dice are divided and rounded down based on the difficulty of the task. Hunting and gathering, as the simplest, are divided by 2, while panning for gold is divided by 6.

The game is solid and the random element helps give new players a fighting chance. Like most Eurostyle games it employs a point-salad scoring system: points are added up at the end of the game so you have no idea who is actually winning until the game is over.

*Stone Age* is a wonderful base game to build a group around. It is good for almost all ages and skill levels, with just enough chance elements to keep everyone interested.



Illustration by Ed Appleby

# Taking a 'Gaycation'

## > Viceland launches with LGBTQ-themed travel serial

Rebecca Peterson  
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Ellen Page gave a speech at the Human Rights Campaign's "Time to Thrive" conference in Las Vegas, where she publicly came out as gay. The Canadian actress has always been politically vocal, supporting many charities and activist organizations. On March 2 she will be combining her performance career and her social activism to produce the new travel serial, "Gaycation."

Vice.com released the trailer for Gaycation January 26 with the following description: "...Ellen and her best friend Ian set off to explore LGBTQ cultures around the world. From Japan to Brazil to Jamaica to the USA, the two meet some amazing people along the way and hear their stories."

This series has been a long time in the making, with a few articles coming out over the past year hinting at its production. Most notably, Gaycation was being filmed as Ellen Page debated US Senator Ted Cruz last August at the Iowa State Fair. Page asked Cruz his opinion on LGBTQ people being fired from workplaces in the States, and he responded: "What we're seeing right now, we're seeing Bible-believing Christians being persecuted for living according to their faith."

"You're discriminating against LGBT people," Page replied.



Screenshot from 'Gaycation' Trailer

"Would you use that argument in segregation?"

Vice stated that Page also encountered "an evangelical Christian band called the Bontrager Family Singers—a family of 12 that had come to Des Moines to perform, that night, at Cruz's Rally for Religious Liberty." According to an article from *The Wrap*, however, some of Page's interactions were less than entertaining.

Page and Daniel apparently came face-to-face with a police officer who bragged about killing

LGBTQ people, an incident during which she said she feared for her own safety. At a panel for Viceland during the 2016 Television Critics' Association's winter press tour, she discussed the incident, with her costar Ian Daniel adding: "A person who is standing in front of you is saying I've killed people like you, I'm going to do it again, and there are other people like me who are killing people like you... It's scary, in that it's just hard to hear."

The series isn't entirely about Page taking on anti-gay activists, however. According to

EllenPageDaily.Org, Page met with teens Trey and Nae, both aspiring performers who lived on the streets of Los Angeles for a month before moving to Italy. There they discovered the Teen Project's PAD in Venice, where Page spent the day last September while shooting the series. Thanks to this organization, they've since been placed in transitional housing.

As Page states in the trailer: "I'm on a journey to explore what it means to be lesbian, gay, bi, or trans, all around the world." Scenes depict Page

and Daniel engaging in pride events, discussing LGBTQ lives in different cultural settings, and showing the struggles and triumphs of members of the gay community. It's both a celebration and a deep examination of the good and the bad of life in a fringe section of society. "It's about people being able to live," one person states in the trailer. "Not just exist."

Viceland will launch this February 29, with the premiere episode of Gaycation airing March 2 at 10 p.m.





image via 4thletter.net

## Comic Corner: The fame machine

### > 'The Wicked and The Divine Vol. 1: The Faust Act' review

Brittney MacDonald  
Life and Style Editor



Ever hear the term “idol worship?” *The Wicked and The Divine* by Kieron Gillen brings that idea to a whole new level.

The plot is rather simple,

yet complex at the same time. In a fantastical modern world, 12 people claim their place as reincarnated gods, granting them limitless fame and power. But there is always a catch. In this case, all that esteem comes at the cost of their lives, as the reincarnated gods only live for two years. Machinations come into play as each of the gods compete for power with one another and the world. Some

believe their very existence is a hoax. Throw in a murder mystery and the ultimate fangirl, and the stage is set for an all-out war.

The idea for the narrative is compelling, but the execution is a little lacklustre. Things move too quickly, so nothing really stands out as a key moment. As you read through it you constantly feel like you're missing something because elements blend

together. As such, the end of the novel doesn't really feel justified. Instead, it becomes a convenient plot device to explain everything that preceded it.

Art-wise, this book is beautiful. Gifted to us by the hands of Jamie McKelvie, the art actually left me wanting to read the next installation of this series. To put it very bluntly, it is perfect. Both epic and intimate, it conveys

emotion for the plot when the plot itself fails to pause and acknowledge its own characters.

I, for one, will probably read the next volume with the hope that the current narrative issues will be fixed. As for my recommendation, I would encourage people to read this if they want something a little different and appreciate beautiful art in their comics off the wall.

## The art of war

### > Martial arts and entertainment

Adam Tatelman  
Arts Editor

Many people think of the term “martial arts” as an oxymoron. After all, the purpose of martial arts is to dedicate one's body and mind to a discipline that evolves through combat, both simulated and actual. One would think that this makes martial arts inherently violent, and yet many civilizations across the globe celebrate traditions of martial arts as performance and competitive entertainment. This paradox raises a number of interesting questions about the martial arts in relation to other arts, and even their status as arts in the first place.

First, it is important to put to bed the idea that martial arts are only a sport. While it is true that they have a sport application, the focus is not solely on the athletes in competition. In arenas like televised boxing, wrestling, or MMA tournaments, more attention is certainly paid to things like win/loss ratios, sponsorships, and fan-favourite



image via projectyourself.com

fighters. This resembles any organized sport, all of which could be charitably described as forms of make-believe combat ritual organized under a different set of rules. But this is only one aspect of martial arts. It would be an error to judge an ancient tradition by its modern commercialized incarnation.

This is not to say that sport is somehow inferior to art. On

the contrary, it is quite noble for athletes to push their physical limits and build camaraderie for the sake of entertainment and self-improvement. But it must be recognized that sport is not necessarily art. There is a reason why “artist” and “athlete” are not synonyms. An artist must be actively trying to express some idea larger than merely an individual experience

of training, victory, or loss. Sport can be the subject of art, but not the medium. That is purely a matter of its function.

Compare martial arts with another hybrid of sport and art: dance. While there are martial traditions which evolved out of dance (and vice versa), their origins make them very distinct. Practitioners of either style may be called both athletes

and artists, even undergoing similar training. Some martial traditions, like Chinese Wushu, even have exhibition tournaments, which are decided on the basis of technique, just like dance or acrobatics. The primary difference is that no dance tournaments are decided by submission or TKO, because dance was not created for self-defence.

Art, however, is not evaluated through either of these methods. When an audience goes to see a show, they will typically call the performance good, bad, or sort of okay. This is not the same as evaluating a win or loss, even though there are many rules of presentation. This is the arena in which martial arts finally become artistic: when they are practiced for their own sake, and others are permitted to be entertained by that practice, or not, at their leisure. Sport statistics are an objective goal. Whether or not I am impressed by a painting, a song, or a martial exhibition is totally subjective to me, and the people watching with me. That is the distinction of art.





Photo by Davie Wong

# One won and one lost

› Win streak ended with loss to rivals

Ayanda Gatsha  
Columnist

On Friday evening, the Royals women's basketball team took on the visiting Camosun Chargers. Douglas came on strong to start the game, resulting in a commanding lead early on. Offence dictated the first quarter of action as the Royals scored 27 points in the first quarter while surrendering 19 to the Chargers. It was back to business for both teams in the second as the pace of the game slowed dramatically. Douglas' stalwart defence made their re-appearance and the team kept Camosun to only 9 points, giving the Royals the lead heading into halftime, 41-28.

The halftime break was not kind for the Royals, who looked like they were ready to run away

with the game. The Chargers came out of the half looking refreshed, and they pushed the Royals much harder than they did in the first half. The Douglas team struggled to match their intensity but despite that, they ended the quarter up 60-45.

The last quarter was bad for the home team, as Camosun turned the pressure on by going on a 15-5 streak, closing the lead to just 5 points. Coach Courtney Gerwing used one of her timeouts to settle the team and refocus. The tactic worked magically, as the Royals came surging back, limiting the Chargers to just 5 points while scoring 14 of their own to close the game out, 79-65.

Saturday's game against Vancouver Island University started out tighter than the previous, despite the Royals looking marvelous offensively. But by the time the half ended, it

was the Royals with a safe 32-26 lead.

Once again, the break was not kind to the Royals, and they came out looking noticeably slower.

As the last phase of the game began the game had drawn to a thrilling 46-46 draw. A re-invigorated VIU squad resulted in an end score of 66-55 for the visitors.

While this game could hardly be classified as an upset, it didn't stop it from feeling like one. After the game, coach Gerwing spoke regarding her team's loss. "We didn't shoot the ball very well in the second half. We went cold for too long. Our shooting percentage in the second half was 17 and that's not how you win a game. We'll probably continue to work on some fundamental defence, but I'd rather play like we did now, than during playoffs."

- ✔ Smooth sailing
- ✔ Weekend split
- ✔ Royals Preview
- And more!



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
VIU	16-2	32
DOUGLAS	16-2	32
CAPILANO	13-5	26
QUEST	9-9	18
LANGARA	8-10	16
CAMOSUN	5-13	10
CBC	5-13	10
KPU	0-18	0

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
VIU	18-0	36
QUEST	15-3	30
LANGARA	12-6	24
CAPILANO	10-8	20
DOUGLAS	9-9	18
CAMOSUN	6-12	12
CBC	2-16	4
KPU	0-18	0

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
VIU	18-4	36
CAMOSUN	13-9	26
CAPILANO	13-9	26
DOUGLAS	12-10	24
UFV	9-13	18
COTR	9-15	18
CBC	4-18	8

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INSTITUTION	CONF	PTS
CAMOSUN	19-3	38
DOUGLAS	18-4	36
VIU	13-9	26
UFV	12-10	24
COTR	9-15	18
CAPILANO	5-17	10
CBC	2-20	2





## Player etiquette?

> Was Cam Newton right to leave?

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

Super Bowl mayhem is finally ramping down, and as the dust settles, we look at what remains relevant. Ironically, it isn't any of the winners that people are talking about. Is Cam Newton a sore loser?

Well the simple answer to that is, yes. Newton has previously admitted to media that he is a "sore loser," but is it that simple? Nothing is ever as simple as it seems in the world of sports, and the same goes for this.

Newton, who was named MVP of the league this year, is in a lot of hot water for his behaviour after his team's loss in the Super Bowl. Traditionally, when teams lose, they are still expected to be available for a post-game press conference. This year, Newton appeared at his conference, apologized to his fans for the loss, and abruptly left. His actions caused an uproar amongst fans, who were quick to call him out on his behaviour, labelling him as a child playing a grownup's game.

This wouldn't be the first time that Newton has received negative attention for his behaviour this season. Newton is known as one of the more colourful personalities in the league. When he wins, he

ensures the whole world knows it. The fact that his team only lost once in the regular season did not help his seemingly inflated ego. That being said, it would be hard to argue against Newton's dominance this season. The man earned every second of his short-lived media fame. But does that justify his actions in walking away from his press conference?

Many people feel like he wronged the entire league by disrespecting the culture of the post-media press conference. To that, I have to say, so what? If anyone put themselves in that position, having lost a maybe once-in-a-lifetime game, I'm sure that few people would want to face media questions asking them why they played so poorly.

On top of all of that, consider the fact that behind Newton, they were conducting an interview with one of the players on the winning team, and discussing how the opposition's defence was able to overpower the league MVP. It was audible to Newton during his post-game conference.

To lose the championship game, and then hear the other team bragging about it while being expected to answer questions from a hungry media? It's no wonder Newton left abruptly. I don't know many people who would be able to stay in that situation.

## Smooth sailing

> Volleyball teams cruise through UFV

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

The trip to UFV was supposed to be an easy one for the men's volleyball team. Six sets and done. That must have been the mindset as they opened up their first of two games against UFV on the weekend, because that's definitely how they played.

The home team made a showing for themselves as they unloaded on the unsuspecting Royals in the first set. Much to the surprise of the visiting team, UFV showed deadly precision as they dismantled the Royals on the court in the first set, taking it 25-12.

Fortunately, that was more than enough for the Royals to snap out of it and get back into the game, which, unfortunately for UFV, meant that the Royals' unstoppable offence was about to get going.

The second set showcased just that. In dominant fashion, the visiting team unleashed well-placed shots that gave UFV little to no chance to react, snatching back a set 25-13. The third set was a testament to UFV's iron will to fight, but the Royals proved that the Cascades needed more than just will to overpower them, and took the second set 25-22.

That set proved to be the backbreaker for UFV, as the Royals surged to take the fourth

set 25-13, and close the game on a decisive note.

The aftermath of that game carried onto Saturday, as the rematch quickly turned into a rout. Having been sloppy in the first set the day before, the Royals ensured that their mistake was not repeated. They took apart the UFV team, one point at a time, taking the first set 25-14. The second set was no different as the home team struggled to find an answer to the crushing pressure the Royals were applying, but could not, surrendering the set 25-15.

As the Royals moved to the finish and brought out their brooms, UFV made their final stand against their powerhouse rivals. In a valiant effort, the home team showed heart as they attempted to claw their way back into the game. But the Royals would have none of that, closing out the game 25-20 and sweeping their opponents.

Meanwhile, the women took their shot at the struggling UFV squad. However, unlike the men, the women came dialed in and ready to play. They opened their weekend with a strong first set, taking it 25-19.

The second was harder as the UFV squad rebounded from their earlier difficulties and challenged the Royals much more. But crucial mistakes made by the squad allowed the visiting team to capitalize and finish the set,

25-22.

From there, it was all about momentum. The Royals were able to come out in the third and close the game without issue, sweeping the home team in the first of two games. The second game was quite the contrast.

It wasn't long after the start of the game that the Royals found themselves 2 sets down and in dire need of three in a row. With their backs against the wall, and the odds against them, the ladies knew it would take a mammoth effort to salvage their early mistakes. But they proved that they were more than up to the task.

In a statement of a third set, the Royals demolished the hopeful UFV team, who were looking to return the sweeping favour, taking the set 25-12. With the push stopped, it was a relief, but the pressure was still there. The team came out in the fourth to ravage the home team's side of the court with scorching finishes, leaving little doubt of their comeback intentions.

With their lead gone, and the last two sets a smoldering ruin, UFV had little to push back with as the Royals team came barreling towards them in the fifth and final set. The momentum proved too much for the home team as the Royals finished their comeback in style, taking the last set 15-9.

## Player of the Week

> Grant Campbell: Men's Basketball

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

Grant Campbell was the heart and soul of the men's basketball team this week as he led them to a 1-1 weekend at home. He tallied a total of 40 points over the weekend, with 28 of them being during his spectacular singular effort in the team's loss against VIU. He also recorded 8 rebounds, 8 assists, 4 steals, and 1 block along the way. Grant has been on a tear since coming back



Grant Campbell

Photo by Davie Wong

to the team on January 22, having recorded at least 25 minutes in 6 of his last 7 games with the team, while contributing at least 12 points each of those times.



Photo by Davie Wong





# A COFFER OF COMEDY INTRODUCTION TO THE

BY JACEY GIBB,  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

As much as people love to complain about Vancouver’s weather and economy, this city has a lot of things going for it. Easy access to world-class nature, an extensive transit system, and one of the best clusterings of musicians in the country, and yet one of Vancouver’s shiniest features is also one that often goes unnoticed: its bustling and constantly evolving comedy scene.

The truth is, we’re spoiled in Vancouver and we don’t even realize it. On almost any given night, you can go out and see a hilarious comedy show for less than a six-pack of your favourite locally-sourced microbrew. And the city’s about to get even funnier for the rest of February, as Vancouver welcomes the Just for Laughs Northwest 2016 comedy festival from February 18–27. While a large percentage of the performers listed come from an international scale (including Lewis Black, Wanda Sykes, and Trevor Noah), there’s a plethora of local talent also sharing the roster.

In honour of the upcoming Just for Laughs festival, I offer to you a crash course of some of the different aspects of Vancouver’s comedy scene by going over some of the

different forms of comedy you see, some of the best places to catch local talent, the best comedy podcasts based out of our city, and even how you can get started in comedy yourself.

## Types of comedy you’ll encounter

This might be an obvious one for some readers, but there’s a wide range of different comedy to salivate over in Vancouver, including three common types.

**Improv:** Ignore all the Agent Michael Scarn jokes you may have been exposed to, or the “improv as a cult” plot from last season on Bojack Horseman. Sure, like almost anything, when



# COMEDIC RICHES: YOUR CRASH COURSE TO THE VANCOUVER COMEDY SCENE

**Improv:** Improv is bad, it's bad, but when improv is good, it's unbelievably good. The shortened term for "improvisational theatre," improv involves a group of performers combining games and scenes with suggestions from the audience. The result is a generally fast-paced, not-always-sensical barrage of comedy that you've often had a part in creating. Improv troupes usually include two or more members.

**Stand-up:** Whereas improv is more group-based and in-the-moment, stand-up usually involves a single comedian at a time performing a "set" of jokes they've told previously. There's an element of spontaneity that comes with stand-up, as comedians have to gauge the crowd as their set goes on and adjust, but often most of the jokes are decided on ahead of time.

**Sketch:** If you've ever seen an episode of Saturday Night Live or Portlandia, you've seen sketch comedy in action. Actors take on different characters depending on the sketch and perform in a predetermined way, with a general direction already in place. Sometimes the sketches are performed in-person and sometimes these sketches are prerecorded and released online, but often live shows will feature a combination of the two.

**Other:** It would be impossible to group all comedy into just a handful of categories—though a large percentage fall under one of the above three—so this fourth category is for all the unique outliers. For example, Paul Anthony's Talent Time is a monthly variety show held at the Rio Theatre where Anthony brings together an assortment of acts ranging from child protégés to standard stand-up comedians. There are a lot of fun and unique shows around Vancouver.

## Best places to laugh your ass off

There's fantastic comedy everywhere in Vancouver, ranging from concert venues to the straight-up comedy clubs like The Comedy Mix and Yuk Yuk's, but some of the best and most original acts I've witnessed took place outside of those spaces. These are a few of the staple locations in the Vancouver scene, though keep in mind that there are new rooms and weekly nights popping up all the time.

**Little Mountain Gallery (LMG):** Dubbed an "independently operated art gallery, theatre, and community space" on their website, LMG is one of the most reliable sources of comedy in Vancouver. In the month of February, there's something happening every night aside from Sundays and Mondays, including Jokes Please stand-up every Thursday and Little Mountain Improv on Tuesdays. They also have hilarious monthly shows, such as Rapp Battlez Wezt Coast and The Lady Show.

**Havana:** Commercial Drive cornerstone Havana is a theatre that plays host to a revolving door of plays, but also a wealth of improv, ranging from the long-form Cagematch Improv on Friday evenings to the 10-person free-for-all Streetfight Improv! on Sunday evenings. There is also a ton of other Instant Theatre-run evenings happening at Havana, which you can stay on top of by visiting their website.

**The China Cloud:** Somewhat hidden on Main Street between Pender and Keefer Street is The China Cloud, another gallery space that frequently hosts musicians, visual artists, and comedians alike. It's also the home base for monthly regulars like The Hero Show and its spinoff Sidekicks.

**Hot Art Wet City (HAWC):** While the name itself is almost a reason enough to include this gallery on this list, the impressive roster of regular shows is what seals HAWC's fate as a local gem. Vancouverite: A Comedy Show has comedians take a humorous look at life in our fair city, Kyle Bottom's Comedy Bucket combines riffing with audience suggestions (drawn from, you guessed it, a bucket), and new addition Teenage Dirtbag forces comedians to drudge up memories from their youthful years.

## Vancouver-based podcasts that bring the funny to you

Not all comedy in Vancouver requires you to leave the comfort of your own home. Avoid crowds and the need to put on a pair of pants by staying in and diving into any of these homegrown podcasts.

**Stop Podcasting Yourself:** To have over 400 episodes of anything, you have to be doing something right. Since 2008, co-hosts Dave Shumka and Graham Clark have been gracing the podcast universe with their banter and hearty laughter. Each week the pair is

joined by an equally funny guest, with topics including, well, just about anything.

**Retail Nightmares:** Because almost everyone has served a stint in the nightmarish world of retail, "co-ghosts" Alicia Tobin and Jessica Delisle are here to find the humour in an otherwise bleak part of humanity. They are also joined by a weekly guest—usually a musician or comedian—and they all share past retail nightmares, provides advice during the Alicia's Self-Help Corner segment, and fawn over adorable animals and things through the Puppy of the Week one.

## Become a comedian yourself

Thanks to this feature, you're essentially a connoisseur of Vancouver comedy, but now you're craving a piece of that laughter for yourself? Every comedian was a beginner at some point, so why not take the comedic plunge and check out one of these companies yourself? Who knows, maybe one day it'll be your name being mentioned in a college newspaper's article profiling local comedy.

**Improv Comedy Institute:** Run by Vancouver Theatre Sports League and located on Granville Island, the Improv Comedy Institute offers introductory courses on things like environment, character, and spontaneity, and more advanced levels for people wishing to further their improv skills. They even have a performance-only Rookie League people can audition for, though we might be getting ahead of ourselves.

**Blind Tiger Comedy:** Founded by members of two of Vancouver's most prolific comedy groups, Hip.Bang! and The Sunday Service, Blind Tiger Comedy operates out of Little Mountain Gallery, and offers a range of stand-up, sketch, and improv courses.

**Instant Theatre Company:** You'll quickly realize how expensive comedy lessons can be, but Instant Theatre offers an affordable introduction to the world of improv with a once weekly three-week class for only \$59 if you get early bird pricing. They also offer stand-up and sketch courses at their East Broadway shop.

## Stray advice that didn't fit in the above categories

**Always check before you go:** With something as nebulous as comedy in Vancouver, it's constantly shifting—by the time this article hits stands, it's entirely possible that some regular shows may have ended. A lot of the more popular shows also sell out well in advance, so keep your eyes on social media and the 'net to avoid future heartbreak.

## When is it appropriate to heckle at shows?

Trick question, and the answer is never. Even if it's a more experienced comedian and they can hold their own against a heckler, that doesn't make it okay to actively work to sabotage the performer. No one is paying money to hear you talk, so whenever someone's onstage, make sure the only thing coming out of your pie hole is guffaws.

There are dozens more venues, comedians, shows, and projects that also deserve your love and admiration, but the laws of the word count bind me. My hope is that you don't take this feature as an exact guide, but rather a jumping off point on your journey to discovering Vancouver's comedy scene. After all, there's a bustling community only a bus or SkyTrain ride away.



# Weekend split

## > Men's basketball goes 1-1

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

The last couple of weeks have been generous to the Royals, gifting them opportunities to play against lower ranking teams and attempt to make up for their rough season opening. Brilliant play from the team and strong performances from key players has allowed them to capitalize on those chances and brought their record back up to even.

On Friday, the Royals faced off against the eighth place Camosun Chargers, who were looking for redemption. The last time these two played, the Royals commanded the game and dominated the Chargers in their own court. Now the Chargers were looking to return the favour.

That thought was quickly erased as the home team came out with speed. Camosun struggled to match the intensity of the Royals and turned the ball over several times in the first quarter. The resulting plays allowed the host Royals to climb to an early lead going into the second quarter.

But the Chargers persisted yet. Their ability to drive the net was evident in the second as they caught the Royals' defence sleeping on multiple occasions. It wasn't long before the Royals

found themselves watching the Chargers shoot foul shots every time Douglas misplayed. The home team could do little as their lead was whittled away, one basket at a time. However, the team was able to just hold on going into halftime with a score of 32-28.

Coming out from the break, the Royals looked much better on the offensive side of the court. However, their problems on the defensive end still persisted, resulting with them once again being pushed by the Camosun offence. The difference this time was that the Royals could afford to give the Chargers those chances because they had converted on their own chances on the other end.

The swift scoring Royals were eventually able to outshoot the Chargers, routing them in the fourth with 24 points, and closing out the game for a convincing win.

With that game in the books, the men could focus on the main event of the weekend: their date with the number one ranked team in the country, the VIU Mariners.

The Saturday afternoon game did not disappoint. The Royals once again, started the game with their foot on the gas pedal. While the VIU men



Photo by Davie Wong

had the size advantage, the host Royals were able to run all over them in the first quarter, outscoring their opponents 30-11.

But the Mariners would not go down so easily, and they came back swinging in the second, showing everyone just why they are rated the best team in Canada. They were quick to flip the roles and took their turn running all over the Royals' defence, thrashing them for 23 points while only surrendering 12.

Beaten and bloodied, Douglas was able to hold onto

the lead going into halftime. In the third quarter, it was immediately obvious that nothing was going to change. The Mariners came out and danced all over the Royals' defenders, nearly doubling their score in a single quarter.

There was little the home team could do as the country's best team went out of their way to ensure their victory, scoring another 21 points in the fourth, ending the game with a total of 86 points. Despite a magnificent individual effort from Grant Campbell, who scored 28 of

the Royals' 66 points, the home team became another victim of the VIU Mariners, who remain undefeated.

After the team's difficult defeat, coach Denis Beausoleil talked about what were the biggest factors to his team's loss: "Rebounding has been the theme all year. We were also unable to press. When we can press, our synergy is a lot better and our offensive flow is a lot better. In the first quarter, our press was good. After that, it was hard to get consistent pressing for the remainder of the game."

## Royals Preview

### > A look at this week's upcoming games

Davie Wong  
Sports Editor

The month of February continues to fly by at an extraordinary pace. Teams are gearing up for that final push into playoff weekend and this week that will be especially evident. Here's a look at this week's games.

#### Women's Volleyball:

This week's Royals matchup of the week features the most heated competition in the women's volleyball PACWEST conference. The ladies are coming home to end their regular season, and who better to end their season against than the Capilano Blues.

The matchup will determine who has control of third place. This position is so important going into playoffs as the third seeded team will play the sixth seeded team, while the fourth seed plays the fifth. The Royals will need to sweep the weekend 2-0 if they hope to clinch that third seed.

The last time these teams met was during the season

opener, and the results could not have been tighter. The two split games on Capilano's court going 5 sets in both games. But that was a long time ago, and since then, both teams have seen dramatic improvement

Look for momentum to be the decider this weekend. The story of the season for the Royals has been their inability to shift momentum. When the team drops two sets, they have had a history of being unable to contest the deciding set. However, things look to be much better in that department lately, as the team showed signs of brilliance last week, coming back from being down 0-2 to UFV.

This week's games will be played on Thursday at 6 p.m, and Friday at 6 p.m at the New Westminster campus.

#### Men's Volleyball:

It's been nothing but playoff prep for these men as they have sweeping the bottom of the conference for the past couple of weeks. They find themselves in a similar position this week as they come home to end their regular

season against the sixth place Capilano Blues.

It is likely that coach Brad Hudson will play his entire rotation but put much of the emphasis on resting his veterans for the coming weekend. The last time the two teams played, it was not at all in favour of the Blues, as the Royals dismantled them. Nothing should change this time around as the Royals have done nothing but improve this year.

#### Women's Basketball:

Last week was a hard week for this Royals team. They split it 1-1, but came out looking shaky. Specifically, their defence was much worse than it has been all season. This week, they have matches against the Langara Falcons and the Quest Kermodes, on their respective home courts.

It should be a time of readjustment for the Royals as they look to toughen up on the back end. While the matchups this week are exciting, the Royals have shown that they can be more than dominant against any team in the league.



Photo by Davie Wong

#### Men's Basketball:

The men have tough matchups as they face two of the league's better teams. Coming off of a devastating loss to the VIU Mariners, the men are faced with adversity as they seek to prove themselves. They have more than shown their ability to beat bad teams, but their ability to win against good teams will be on

display now.

Facing off against the Langara Falcons and the Quest Kermodes, two teams that have previously beat them, the Royals will need to be on-point. Their rebounding, which was a huge factor in their loss against VIU, will need to be the best it's been all season.



# LIFE & STYLE

- ✓ Roosh V, Return of Kings, and neomascularity
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  - ✓ How to combat procrastination
- And more!



Screenshot from 'Ryanville' Hyundai commercial

## Sexism and sportsball

› Why are people mad at a town filled with Ryan Reynolds?

Brittney MacDonald  
Life & Style Editor

I'm not going to lie, I don't know much about the Super Bowl. I care very little for football as it does not have the grace and prestige of soccer, and I generally only watch the halftime show. As such, I never really see any of the famous Super Bowl commercials that everyone goes nuts for—so, when I read about all this drama going around on the Internet regarding this year's round of marketing masterpieces, I didn't really understand what all the fuss was about. To remedy this, I did what any sane, Internet-savvy woman would do—I googled the f\*\*\* out of that shit!

After watching the commercials I understand some of the confusion surrounding that weird birth one for Doritos, and whatever the hell that creepy monkey thing was

advertising. But the cherry on top of the cake came from an unlikely source—Hyundai.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am referring to the commercial now known as “Ryanville.” The premise is simple: two people are driving through a neighbourhood and are constantly distracted by the fact everyone looks like Ryan Reynolds. Innocent enough, right?

Here's the subliminal issue that you might not have caught on to. Both the people in the car are women—not surprising, a lot of women probably love Ryan Reynolds (I know I do). However, it is now speculated that the commercial is actually insinuating that distracted driving is only a problem for female drivers as a means of endearing itself to a mostly male viewership. Now to people who have never taken a marketing or psychology course this might sound like a big leap or a ridiculous assumption.

Unfortunately, advertising has a rather nasty history of systematic female oppression in order to appease patriarchal society. If that still sounds like mumbo-jumbo to you, consider this: when was the last time you saw a beverage company with a man drinking out of a bottle on the side of their truck? Those that do have them are pretty few and far between. The reason for this is because society as a whole finds women drinking out of bottles more aesthetically appealing. Why, you may ask? According to *Sex in Advertising*, it is reminiscent of fellatio, which is more socially acceptable for women to do as opposed to men.

The important thing to remember is that all actions and choices made in advertising and/or marketing are very deliberate. People study for many years to know exactly what will appeal to any given demographic.

Want to sell to men? Make them feel like your product will somehow improve their chances of conforming to the masculine ideal. Want to sell to either men or women? Create a scenario where one gender is proven superior to another in some way, such as a car commercial showing women as terrible drivers. The reverse of this is also true—commercials with bumbling husbands trying to do laundry or braid their daughter's hair show men as incapable caregivers as a means of endearing the product to a female demographic.

Recently, there has been a surge in advertising that is trying to fight against this marketing norm. A Campbell's Soup commercial shows two homosexual men successfully caring for a child together, and another commercial shows a single father cleaning up his house in preparation for a visit

from his daughter. However, commercials that are specifically targeted towards men still tend to be heteronormative and, more often than not, sexist.

So what does this mean for “Ryanville?” Outside of the context of the Super Bowl, the commercial itself comes off as amusing yet slightly dated—meaning that if it was played during regular airtime the problems with how it is constructed would probably be more apparent. However, insulated within the plethora of testosterone that is NFL programming, it doesn't come off as strange because it is surrounded by images that are also specifically directed towards a masculine audience.

Hopefully seeing the difference in these two situations will force all viewers to be more aware of how they interpret advertising on a grander scale.

## Stiletto

› Security never looked so good

Brittney MacDonald  
Life & Style Editor

Originally developed by Florida company Secure Couture, Stiletto is a charm that can be attached to a bracelet, necklace, or any other piece of jewelry. Its intent is to offer a discreet way of contacting emergency lines, friends, or family when you feel threatened.

The inspiration behind the charm was the realization by the company co-founders, brother duo Alexander and Daniel Gladstone, that oftentimes when people, women especially, are under threat, the security of a cell phone is not immediately at hand.

Logically, it makes sense.

Security apps that can be activated on your phone when you feel threatened play a big role in thwarting many attempted assaults—however, a large majority of these apps are not available in Canada. Those apps are also designed to send a text or call to an emergency contact, who is then responsible for checking in with you. This creates a weird third party dynamic where your safety is completely dependent on whether your friend or family member reads their text message in time. Stiletto streamlines the process by contacting your emergency contacts, as well as 911 to put them on alert to a possible situation. If the situation progresses the Stiletto

automated system will give your location to the 911 operator with a request for immediate assistance. Otherwise, you can simply cancel and the system will inform the operator that the situation has been resolved.

Perhaps most impressive of all, all of this is done through a few button presses.

The intent when creating Stiletto was to make it as discreet as possible, so that possible attackers won't be alerted to you contacting the police and either turn violent or halt your ability to do so. The charm itself comes in a variety of styles that you can customize so it's nearly impossible for it to be recognized as a security precaution.



Image via [www.stiletto.is](http://www.stiletto.is)

You activate Stiletto by pressing the jewel in its centre to send out the initial texts and call. If the threat continues, you press the jewel two more times to request immediate assistance. At any point in time you can hit the jewel once to cancel the call.

Another added security feature is that the charm will also create an audio recording once activated, making it even more useful as it can then be used as proof of verbal assault.

Right now you can pre-order the system for \$179–220.



# Roosh V, Return of Kings, and neomascularity

> A brief overview of what all the fuss was about

Rebecca Peterson  
Staff Writer

Just over a week ago, the Internet experienced a minor explosion. This time, it was over the organization of supposed “pro-rape rallies” worldwide, a product of a large neomascularity online community called Return of Kings. Further investigation revealed that these were not rallies, but rather “meet-ups” of like-minded individuals (strictly heterosexual men), who referred to themselves as belonging to “tribes.”

According to Roosh V, founder of Return of Kings, neomascularity can be defined thusly: “[A combination of] traditional beliefs, masculinity, and animal biology into one ideological system. It aims to aid men living in Westernized nations that lack qualities such as classical virtue, masculinity in males, femininity in females, and objectivity, especially concerning beauty ideals and human behaviour.” Under this statement on their official website is a long table of contents with subsections describing the “principal doctrines of neomascularity,” some of which are “Traditional sex roles,” “Sexual marketplace value,” “Feminine beauty ideals,” and “Understanding the true nature of women.”

What is the “true nature of women?” Again, to quote the website, “Women are skilled at using the structure and rules of the local environment to fulfill their goals, which is to secure the highest possible value male, gain as much material resources as possible, pursue the female primal need for pleasure and vanity, and compete successfully against other females ... A woman’s nature is therefore not static, and takes the shape of the container of her environment ... Elimination of traditional sex roles and the promotion of unlimited mating choice in women unleashes their promiscuity and other negative behaviors that block family formation.”

The expectations that Return of Kings has of its male members are also quite



Illustration by Ed Appleby

rigid. The site states: “A man’s value significantly depends on his resources, intellect, and character.” Thus, there is a large focus in the Return of Kings community on self-improvement to build oneself into the ideal “masculine” man.

As well, there is a held belief in the community that “men will opt out of monogamy and reproduction if there are no incentives to engage in them.” To counter this, the community holds a dedication to the traditional family unit for the betterment of society.

So how did all of this translate online from “tribal meet-ups” to “pro-rape rallies”?

Well, among their base belief system, there is a political movement to dismantle domestic violence laws in an effort to stop sexual assault.

In an article titled “How to Stop Rape,” Roosh V explained his concerns about sexual assault, and his strategy to solve the frequency of such crimes (in the specific context of men assaulting women):

“By attempting to teach men not to rape,” he wrote, “what we have actually done is teach women not to care about being raped, not to protect themselves from easily preventable acts, and not to take responsibility for their actions ... I thought about this problem and am sure I have the solution: make rape legal if done on private property.”

This may immediately strike one as a little backwards, but Roosh V elaborates further:

“Without daddy government to protect her, a girl would absolutely not enter a private room with a man she doesn’t know or trust unless she is absolutely sure she is ready to sleep with him. Consent is now achieved when she passes underneath the room’s door frame, because she knows that that man can legally do anything he wants to her when it comes to sex...”

Many have found this sentiment to be alarming, and the idea of gatherings of people who think this way less than ideal. Because of the public backlash, official meetings of the Return of Kings groups were canceled by Roosh V, though it is worth mentioning that many went forward and took place regardless. Surely, with the emphasis on self-improvement, patriarchal importance, and self-sufficiency, the members of Return of Kings have to formulate themselves as independent, strong men that own their own homes and are capable of providing for their families as a traditional patriarchal figure—that is what founder Roosh V would expect of them, given his strong opinions on the matter.

According to *The Province*, Roosh V was last seen at his mother’s house in Maryland, as he currently lives in her basement.



Image via www.lenallure.com

## Beauty on a Budget

> E.l.f. Studio Blush and Studio Blush Duo

Lauren Kelly  
Assistant Editor

I’m not someone who uses many blushes, as I have trouble applying most colours I’ve tried and having them look natural. I wanted to write about blushes for this column, and I also wanted to discover a good blush for spring. So after doing a bit of research I decided to test some of E.l.f.’s more popular blush options due to their favourable reviews and cheap prices. The colours I chose are the Studio Blush single in “Tickled Pink” and the Studio Contouring Blush & Bronzer Powder duo in “St Lucia.”

As someone with a very light skin tone, I found “Tickled Pink” to be an incredibly natural colour on me, and it will definitely be something I’ll be using often. It’s a very warm, neutral pink that blends out well. It does have some shimmer, but I didn’t find it very noticeable on my skin. It had fairly long wear time as well. The E.l.f. blushes come in four neutral shades that range from peach to pink, two pretty deep mauves, a bold bubblegum pink, and white and gold shimmer highlight colours.

The contouring duo comes in

four different colour pairs, each with one blush and one bronzer. “St Lucia,” the most popular choice, is said to be a dupe for Nars’ famous “Orgasm/Laguna” duo. However, when comparing them myself as I use the Nars palette daily, I found that the E.l.f. blush was lighter and pinker, while the bronzer was much deeper. Although the blush was a very pretty colour on me and one I’ll be wearing in the spring, the bronzer was much too deep and pigmented for me to use as a convincing contour. It would be perfect for people with deeper skin tones than mine, though. It could also be lightly brushed on to the face to warm it up for spring for those who want a bit more colour coming out of our dreary winter months. The “Fiji” duo would be better for people with lighter skin, as the bronzer is a softer colour than the other palettes.

I’m happy with the “Tickled Pink” blush, and with the product quality in general. However, I’ll definitely be going back for a different colour in the duo. Either way, I would recommend the products to anyone—just make sure you find the right shade! Both the single and duo are available at London Drugs for \$3.99.



## #DOUGLIFE

Tweet us using the hashtag #DougLife, for a chance to be featured in the paper!



Maureen Mackey  
@maureenamackey



Relishing the enjoyment & learning from #NormVaughan's Fri. workshops at #DouglasCollege  
#COImodel #blendedlearning  
[goo.gl/3HqUs6](https://goo.gl/3HqUs6)

This week's tweet is by Maureen Mackey



# Indie fashion feature: Blackmilk

› Nerd chic comes at a steep price

**Brittney MacDonald**  
Life & Style Editor

Blackmilk is a name that has become synonymous with indie fashion success. I mean, it's pretty hard to be a frequent peruser of the World Wide Web, and not have seen at least one of their products. Based in Australia and best known for their detailed graphic print leggings, Blackmilk has risen to success on the idea that building up your social media presence and providing a wide variety of products is essential to finding success with today's young adult demographic. But what are you really buying when you make a Blackmilk purchase—a quality product, or a name?

I will admit, I have been taken in by Blackmilk designs more than once. I mean, come on! They have multiple collections devoted to *Star Wars* and *Mass Effect*! But all that fan-love comes at a pretty steep cost. Their leggings will run you about \$80 USD, which is bad enough but becomes even worse when you factor in that any shipping to Canada is international. I can also inform you that, due to the fact they are so expensive, you will be charged an additional \$50–60 CAD per package or item because of duty taxes. Normally, duty taxes don't apply because companies will enclose their receipts in the package to avoid theft. Blackmilk doesn't do this, so it remains the only company that I regularly have to pay extra to get my items shipped from.

Pro tip: if you are making a Blackmilk order, do so in bulk or combine your order with a few friends so that you can split not only the shipping cost but the cost of the duty taxes, which makes it all a little more bearable.

Quality-wise, my Blackmilk



Image via fuckyeahblackmilkclothing.tumblr.com

leggings are some of my best. They are extremely durable and made of thick spandex. I really like them, but they are kind of a pain in the ass to care for because you have to wash them by hand and air-dry them. That said, the quality of the print work is amazing even when the leggings are stretched. The dresses on the other hand fit really strangely. It's almost as if Blackmilk assumes everyone is either incredibly well-endowed or has had a boob job, because the bust size is often ridiculously out of proportion to the size of the rest of the dress. So if you're

petite-chested, go about 1–2 sizes smaller than you normally would. I'm 5'8" and vary between a B and C cup, and the medium I ordered was so big I had to give it away.

If you want my advice, save Blackmilk for when you really want to treat yourself, or when they come out with a collection from your favourite fandom. Don't shop there for their normal clothes, because believe me, you can find them way cheaper at American Apparel or Romwe. Blackmilk clothing is available at their website [www.blackmilk.com](http://www.blackmilk.com)



Image via www.vina.io

## Hey! VINA

› Find me a friend!

**Brittney MacDonald**  
Life & Style Editor

Do you ever scroll through Tinder and wonder: “what if this was for finding meaningful friendships, and not just for random late night hook-ups with sketchy Dairy Queen assistant managers?” Well now there's Hey! VINA, an app devoted to finding you platonic female friends!

I'm not going to lie, my immediate reaction to this app was the same one I have when I find Tinder present on one of my friends' phones—I laughed... loudly. I mean, let's be serious, when you market yourself as the Tinder of female friendship you're going to have some problems. Tinder in itself has become a social joke, but unfortunately no one told the ad reps this and they seem to assume that Tinder's notoriety is something to be aspired to. If you're studying marketing at all, you might want to pocket this little piece of wisdom: fame is

not the same thing as infamy.

All jokes aside, when I actually sat down and looked into Hey! VINA's mission statement, I found that it made a lot more sense than I expected it to. Basically, the app is meant to be used as a means of connecting women within metropolitan areas to avoid the social isolation of relocation, career change, or lifestyle change. To put it into perspective, if you move to a new city, the app can help you find friends, or if you decide to live a healthier lifestyle, the app can help you find likeminded friends that will support you as you support them.

When you think of it that way, an app like this is actually very useful. Being a member of the digital generation, if you can find love online, why not fill out the rest of your social circle with friends too?

I mean, what's the alternative—go to the nearest Starbucks and actually strike up a conversation with someone? Gross.

# How to combat procrastination

› Some simple tips to get you going

**Lauren Paulsen**  
Senior Columnist

Procrastination. Unfortunately, everyone gives in to it at some point. But it's time to stop listening to it and kick it out of your life. It is not your friend.

Procrastination can be so tantalizing at the time. Why not give in to the temptation of playing that video game now? Or going out with your friends? Maybe you've been itching to binge that show you just have to see. You can always do that other thing later, right? Usually when someone thinks like this, later always becomes the last minute.

But motivating yourself to work is harder than giving in to something fun. So how do you do it?

One of the biggest reasons that people procrastinate is because they don't want to do whatever it is they need to do. The best way to get over this is to take care of those unwelcome tasks first thing during your day. Of everything you have to do that day, do the thing you dread most first. This not only takes the overhanging dread of doing the task away for the rest of the day, it will also give you a sense of accomplishment that will last and make your day brighter.

Another reason people

procrastinate is because they are overwhelmed by a large undertaking or with the number of things that they need to do. The easiest way to deal with this is to make lists. List everything that you need to do and break the larger tasks down into smaller ones. Work on your biggest tasks first, and whenever you complete a task, cross it off your list. Seeing the progress you make is a great incentive to keep going. Lists are your friends.

If you are finding it hard to find the motivation to start, then set up rewards for whenever you finish a task. Just make sure that the reward always equals the task done. If it's a small task, don't

treat yourself to something big. Also, make sure that you work on those important tasks first. According to the 20/80 Rule, only 20 per cent of your tasks are really important. Most people tend to spend their time working through the 80 per cent that are not as important. Don't confuse activity with accomplishment. It's not the number of things you do, but the quality of those things.

Think of the consequences if you should succeed in finishing this task, or should you fail. These positive and negative consequences can both be powerful motivators to help you get started on those tasks and get them done.

Try to make it into a game. Challenge yourself to beat those deadlines as fast as you can, while still doing your best at those tasks.

It can be really hard to get over procrastination, but when you start working you will often build momentum. Whenever you complete an important task, your brain releases endorphins, making you feel good. You can actually gain a positive addiction to this feeling of success, and you'll want to complete more and more tasks. All you have to do is take that first step to begin. Now, stop reading and go get those important things done! Take that first step!



- ✓ Video games are a terrible alternative to exercise
  - ✓ How to live with Big Brother
  - ✓ Speaking for groups you don't represent contributes to oppression
- And more!*



Image via [passivehousevancouver.ca](https://www.passivehousevancouver.ca)

## Flipping the bird and the house

› Take the corrupted business out of house owning

Elliot Chan  
Opinions Editor

I moved many times when I was growing up. It has always been a bittersweet memory. Those experiences of packing all my belongings, changing schools, and saying goodbye to old friends still make me reflect, wondering what life I could have had if I stayed in that neighbourhood. I never blamed my parents for moving, because I can be certain that moving wasn't their first option either. They were doing it for financial reasons, not to punk me.

My family, like many, took their financial wellbeing seriously, and there are few

investments more impactful than real estate. But above all else, a house should be a home. However, there are many—especially in Vancouver—who are trading real estate like Pokémon cards, another bittersweet childhood memory. But I digress. House flipping, the act of buying a house and re-selling it over a short period for profit, is a worrisome obstacle for young people entering the housing market.

For me, I see the place I live as a space where I spend my days relaxing, entertaining friends, and living my life. I don't think of it as a denomination of a fluctuating market. Perhaps I should, but I don't, because I never want to derail my life just to

make money. Many people think differently. Many people would consider me a schmuck for living in an affordable neighbourhood.

In a recent announcement from BC Assessment, since 2014, 368 single-family (detached) homes have swapped owners twice or more. These houses, not surprisingly, are set in high-profile neighbourhoods: Dunbar, Heights, Point Grey, etc. But let's be honest: every neighbourhood in Vancouver now is high profile, since nearly all single-family homes are valued in the millions.

Not only are these homes worth a lot, they are also in high demand. People *are* willing to pay more to live in Vancouver. So savvy—and rather despicable—people are

willing to take advantage of that for a profit. That is the prime reason for house flipping, rich people trying to get richer.

Greed fuels the market in Vancouver and the people nourishing this corrupted form of business are the realtors, who are knowingly selling the properties for more than they were previously sold for. This way, the realtor and the brief owner make a profit. Here's the kicker—it's all completely legal in BC. While the asking price is visible, the sale price remains private, hidden from the public. This is one reason why it is a corrupted market. If there is no transparency, there cannot be any trust.

The province of BC is now

intending to tax the house flippers not just through property tax but also a capital gains tax, but that does not solve the problem, it just makes house flipping a legitimate business. Yes, you can blame it on those who don't flip houses, saying that they have zero business acumen, but just because you can do it doesn't mean it is ethical or good practice.

A house is a home, and many people of my generation will go through most of their lives without having owned one. This is a tragedy. This is especially true when we see millionaires making easy money while overvaluing the market, and creating an unstable place for all of us to live.



# Why the money in your pocket is as outdated as religion

## › The fallacy of the monetary system

Ayanda Gatsha  
Columnist

No, it is not because new printed money is more counterfeit proof or capable of stimulating a deflated market. The reason paper, polymer, or whatever they make money out of nowadays is comparable to religion is because, like religion, it has been a tool for bartering for a long time. This is not a shot at religion or a mockery of the rich person's accumulated wealth; it is strictly an observation. You may decide whether a better way of distributing our resources can be formulated, or remain content with systems that disadvantage the unprivileged.

When we say outdated, we usually mean something is clearly past its prime. Philosopher William James and his colleagues contested several ideas relating to "truth" and its usefulness. The more an idea was useful, the more truth was evident about it. The notion of a flat Earth is my favourite example, as that assumption—based on a narrow perspective—served civilization to map out the landscape so long



Image via thinkstock

as they were careful not to get too close to the edge and fall off. As technology and vision expanded, the "truth" of our flat world became outdated. This doesn't mean it is complete garbage.

If you are a scientist, you take what was once assumed, revise it, test it, and make a new and improved truth, which serves

a more useful function. What could our community be, if only we reconsidered the customs and traditions we have inherited at birth and critiqued them? Would we find a new way to ensure everyone isn't caught in the trap of poverty, so people aren't forced to ask for change every day outside of a Tim Hortons?

Society needs to critique its own traditions, a statement constantly repeated by several scholars and philosophers, yet there is a perpetual taboo against this. Maybe it's because we want to be polite. Some of us were raised that way, but does being a part of a society mean challenging it

when it is not all it can be?

The first thing a person on a stranded island asks a genie for is food, water, friends, and animals, not \$100,000. Wealth is not equal to the contents of your wallet and any system that convinces a person of that should be critically revised.

# Video games are a terrible alternative to exercise

## › Norwegian high school now offers eSports class in place of gym class

Tatum Miller  
The Peak (Simon Fraser University)

Beginning next August, Norway's Garnes High School will be offering students gaming classes in place of gym class, including only 90 minutes of exercise optimized for their favourite game. This is not the first time a school has made this decision, as other schools in Norway and in Sweden also offer eSports classes. However, this decision shows an unsettling shift away from the obvious purpose of gym class: exercise.

One thing cannot be denied—eSports are a large, growing industry expected to be worth about \$2 billion dollars by 2018. If schools mean to prepare our young people for the future, then it makes sense that we teach them about new, emerging industries. However, eSports are simply not an appropriate substitute for traditional physical activity.

Some eSports players take home six figures in earnings, or competition earnings and sponsorship. UBC's eSports team won a \$180,000 scholarship last

May in a video game competition. Many universities and colleges across North America now offer scholarships for eSports. Students should absolutely learn about these opportunities while in high school. Who doesn't want to get paid to play video games?

Garnes High School says that these classes will train "[young] eSports pros bodies as well as their minds." They will learn teamwork, sharpen reflexes, as well as build focus and endurance for long tournaments.

Truly, a training session for video games would likely aid in all those categories. However, the issue here is that you cannot substitute video games for physical exercise.

The benefits of gym class simply cannot be taken away from students. Just 30 to 45 minutes of moderate exercise per day has been shown to enhance memory, concentration, mood, cardiovascular endurance, and self-confidence. These are things that teenagers probably will not get out of an eSports class.

I'm not intending to bash video games. Personally, I have logged an embarrassing amount



Image via JGI/Jamie Grill, Blend Images, Getty Images

of time playing *Call of Duty*, *Age of Empires*, and numerous *Fallout* games. I enjoy them as much as the next person. However, it doesn't seem right to allow students to opt out of gym class in order to play video games.

The entire purpose of physical education is to teach students the benefits of

maintaining a healthy body, and, sadly, sitting does not contribute to health maintenance.

Perhaps, it would be better to offer eSports training as an extracurricular opportunity, so as not to diminish the importance of physical exercise. Students deserve the chance to pursue their interests, especially

when it has the potential to earn them scholarships.

The fact of the matter is that the benefits gained from the two different types of classes are not identical, or even similar. A healthy body as well as a healthy mind is vital to ensure that students live a good life during and after high school.



# How to live with Big Brother

> Understanding why privacy matters

Elliot Chan  
Opinions Editor

While it isn't necessarily the government that is tracking all your activity, the combination of all the data accumulated in day-to-day life is enough for them to know you better than your parents do. We can almost be certain that, although there is nobody watching us on a screen, our every action is recorded, filed away, and capable of being pulled out and evaluated by those with the credentials to do so. Most often those people aren't people at all, they are just marketing algorithms designed to match your queries and daily behaviours with advertisements.

Now, Google isn't out to embarrass you by exposing your search queries. TransLink will not send a message to your girlfriend if you decide to make a mysterious trip out to Surrey. Bell is not going to let your boss know that you've been trash talking him with your friends. These things don't benefit the company, so don't be paranoid.

It's hard to trust the motives of big corporations, but I always bring it back to one question: Does such and such action cause them to



Illustration by Ed Appleby

lose or gain money? If your behaviour continues to benefit the business you get the service from, you can keep going merrily by—as long as you are not committing any heinous crimes.

There is no way around it; we need to trust companies to use our information ethically. However, we need to also be conscious of what information we are haphazardly giving

away. See, privacy matters. Without privacy, you'll lose control of your own life. The companies will own it.

Any sort of meaningful self-development does not happen

in a group, or with Sauron's eye watching you. It happens independently, not on Facebook and not while Googling. I'm not talking about education or improving your business skills or finding online romance, I'm talking about the growth that occurs when you are allowed room to breathe. This is the type of growth that has no deadlines and no guidance. This in essence is the life you'll live.

We have become so obsessed with sharing our experiences on social media, telling everything we do to Big Brother, that we are forgetting the real point of our pursuits: to create memories that aren't saved on any hard drive, except the one between our ears. We are scared of people listening in on us, but we have stopped listening to ourselves.

The season is changing. It'll be a warm summer, I predict. This is an opportunity to get away from the information highway and do something nobody on the Internet will know. Big companies are constantly collecting data, and so should you. The good thing is, you get to decide what information you want to store: what's spat out to you by those online or what you discover yourself. It's up to you.

# Speaking for groups you don't represent contributes to oppression

> The value of shutting up and listening

Cazzy Lewchuk  
Staff Writer

It's a point of contention that we live in a world where many people experience oppression: those living in poverty, people of colour, LGBT+ people, disabled people, women. Anyone who isn't a straight cisgender white male (like myself) is to some degree discriminated against in our society today. The importance of speaking up for specific issues, along with standing up for the rights of the marginalized, cannot be emphasized enough. As a person with a large degree of privilege and, by extension, power, I have a duty to speak up for equality.

However, it is as important to let members of these groups speak up for themselves. Because I am not part of the group, I should not act as if my opinion is more valid than theirs, because I don't have the same experiences as they do. Certainly, members of privileged groups should be



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in agreement when defending equal rights, but not at the risk of undermining the ones who are specifically seeking the equality.

When men say what is best for women, they are actively undermining advocacy led by

women themselves. They are contributing to a society in which men make all the decisions, including having control over what a woman does. When a straight person declares what a member of the LGBT+

community needs, it silences the voice of said community. When a person who has not experienced mental illness declares statements and opinions about mental health, it discourages those who actually do suffer from

discussing their own experiences.

Members of marginalized groups are able to speak up for themselves just as much as outsiders are. In fact, they are much more able to properly speak up for themselves. Speaking up for someone, instead of *with* someone, is a habit that occurs much too frequently. Minorities are intelligent, rational, and capable of making their own decisions and knowing what is best for them.

Representing a group you are not a member of takes away power from these groups and gives it back to the factors that oppress these groups in the first place. Although many of us with said power have nothing but the best intentions in speaking up, it is very easy to dominate an idea and discourage viewpoints from first-hand perspectives. Being in solitude is great, and helping to fix the power imbalance is great. But often, the best thing we can do to give power back is to shut up and listen.



## Douglas student on fourth day of holding third floor door open

› A peek into the life of one of Douglas College's human doorstops

Rebecca Peterson  
Staff Writer

This week, the *Other Press* spoke with Stanley Plat, 19, a Douglas student who has been confirmed to have been holding open the door between the main commerce and the third floor hallway for the past four days. A Communications major, Plat was surprisingly cavalier when discussing his current predicament.

"The first hour was the hardest," Plat said, leaning back against the door to allow room for late students to go bolting through the doorway. "I mean, when you hold open a door for people, you expect there to be a lull in the crowds at some point. I should have known."

It all started when Plat was intercepted on his way to class by a door swinging shut in his face. Without thinking of the consequences, Plat pulled the door open only to realize there was a large group of students behind him, needing to go through.

"I've been here ever since," Plat said with a shrug.

Often called "Canadian Traps," the doors off the commerce



Original graphic illustration

are notorious hazards for people with ingrained politeness. It is not unusual to see people such as Plat acting as a human doorstop, allowing classmates to escape through the doorways while they are left to languish.

"It wasn't so bad," said Plat. "I mean, like I said, maybe at first. But everyone's been pretty

grateful. I've even had people start handing off money, like tips? So I've made more in the past few days than I've made in the past month working weekends at Safeway. I'm actually starting to think about opening a savings account, maybe invest a little. You can do that on your phone these days, and the Wi-Fi here is

decent."

Despite the optimism, the threat of being dropped from classes due to absenteeism looms large, given Plat's inability to attend his courses because of his new position. Plat remains unconcerned.

"I mean, think of it this way," said Plat. "I came to Douglas to

learn, right? So I could go off and have a career? Sure, there's not gonna be a piece of paper showing that I got a degree in 'door-holding,' or whatever, but it's practical, hands-on experience. I was gonna be a PR rep for some tech company, but now? I'm thinking doorman."

In fact, given the frequency of students being left in such positions, there have been whispers among faculty members of opening a trade school of sorts offering an associate's degree in doorstep management. According to one professor who preferred his identity to remain anonymous: "We're not entirely ruling it out."

So there may be an academic future for the human doorstops of Douglas College after all. Either way, Plat seems content to stay where he is.

"You really see the broad spectrum of human kindness, here," Plat said. "People bring me food, water, copies of the *Other Press*. Personally I'm more of a *Metro* guy, but, you know, beggars can't be choosers and all that."

Finally, we asked Plat how he was able to relieve himself while stuck at his station. He declined to comment further.

## Vancouver's real estate market pricier than ever

› How much would you pay to live in the city?

Jake Wray  
Contributor

The red hot real estate market reached new extremes last month when a decrepit backyard shed in Vancouver's Dunbar neighbourhood sold for \$2.4 million.

Jonas Mendelson, a 32-year-old software developer, paid \$200,000 above asking price for the run-down storage unit. It has no heat, insulation, plumbing, or electricity. He said the price was steep, but totally worth it.

"I know I'm just a millionaire, but I really wanted to live in Vancouver. I just love it here—it's so close to the mountains for outdoor activities, and the ocean, and the dating scene here is so lively and genuine," said Mendelson.

"I didn't think I could afford to live in the city, but buying a shed was a nice way to compromise basic necessities like heat and running water for the sake of affordability."

He also said the community-oriented neighbourhood was a huge selling point.

"I need to feel like I really belong where I'm living, so the warm reception here has been amazing. The students who live in the shed across the alley left their Wi-Fi unsecured for me, and the raccoon family in the bushes next door have only bitten me maybe two, three times," said Mendelson.

The owner of the property on which Mendelson's shed sits, Steve McIntyre, said the shed had become too valuable to hang onto.

"As prices kept soaring,

I kept looking out at that damn shed. I figured I barely use it, why not sell it for a handsome profit to some poor schmuck," said McIntyre.

He added that he was very pleased when Mendelson delivered payment for the shed in cash.

"I was running out of money to wipe my ass with, and I didn't want to have to make a trip down to the ATM," said McIntyre.

Not everyone is pleased with the transaction, however. Mendelson and McIntyre's neighbour, Helena Fletcher, said some incoherent, racist shit that didn't really contribute to the discourse about real estate in any meaningful way.

"It's those goddamn Chinese. They're coming in here with their foreign money and driving this city to the ground!" said



Photo by Erica Cooper via flickr

Fletcher. "This used to be a good neighbourhood, I tell ya."

When reminded that both Mendelson and McIntyre are both white Canadian men of European descent, Fletcher was unfazed.

"They're just puppets, I tell ya! Those Chinese are behind everything these days, pulling the strings. They're trying to take over this country from the inside out," she maintained.





Illustration by Ed Appleby

# Four out of five dentists agree fifth dentist is insane

> Court action taken to revoke fifth dentist's licence

Chandler Walter  
Humour Editor

Over the past two weeks, a riveting court case has been in the spotlight of America's eyes and ears. The renowned "Fifth Dentist Debacle" has pushed all other news coverage aside as it enters its final day at court.

Four prominent dentists in the industry, also known as the "Gang of Four," have come forward to end the career and incite the expulsion of the fifth

dentist from both the toothpaste recommendation committee and the practice of dentistry entirely.

"How mad must a man be..." said the fourth dentist, in the first of many court appearances, "To not recommend the use of Crest Oral-B Fluoride healthy teeth solutions! It is obviously a healthy part of a healthy mouth." To that the other three dentists nodded in agreement, while the fifth dentist looked on, silently, from the witness stand.

One week ago the second dentist had to be escorted out

of the courthouse by security when he made a move to physically attack the fifth dentist, screaming: "YOU'RE DESTROYING THE ENAMEL OF AMERICA!" This incident occurred shortly after a heated debate regarding the number of times an average person should brush. All four dentists agreed that a brush after every meal was mandatory, while the fifth dentist insisted once a week would suffice.

He has been attacked time and again by all four other

dentists over two weeks, and now he has finally been given the time to fully speak his case.

"I know why you stand against me, brethren," the fifth dentist stated to the court, though he seemed to speak only to the other four dentists in the room. "You fear for your craft, as do we all in this doomed time. Look not to me for answers, I am only the balancer of the scales. You need me as much as I need you, for no brand of toothpaste must ever reach a five out of five dentists recommendation, lest

the cavity creeps take us all."

The Gang of Four spoke privately before the official judgement was cast, and returned to call off the entire case. The first dentist spoke to media vaguely about "the balancing of the brushes" and how the prophecy must not come to fruition. The four dentists left without saying another word to the fifth dentist. He had disappeared before the media had an opportunity to interview him, though no one states that they saw him leave the room.



by Eric Wilkins, Editor-in-Chief





Image via thinkstock

## BREAKING: Nice guy gets girl

> Local man breaks free of friend-zone

Chandler Walter  
Humour Editor

In an exciting turn of events this past weekend, local Vancouverite Jim Brant broke free from the tantalizing prison of the friend-zone he was in, and convinced long-time friend Natalie Luth to begin dating him.

What was once considered impossible by many self-proclaimed nice guys has become a reality for Brant, and he says that all it took was a little patience. “All I had to do was wait it out,” he said in an interview. “Every time some asshole guy would be mean to her, or cheat on her, or anything really, I would be there. It was easy enough to pretend to care. And hey, it worked out. Look at me now!” Brant explained that his strategy of being the shoulder to cry on was all a part of his plan to eventually begin dating Luth. “I mean, after all this time, I deserve it. I sat through so many chick flicks, and listened to so many breakup stories, that now, I’m reaping my reward. I’m being given what is owed to me, because I am such a nice guy.”

Luth explained how it came to her that Brant could be seen as a possible love interest. “I guess it was just his relentless whining that slowly won me over—all those passive aggressive little jabs about him being in the friend-zone. Eventually I realized

that he was right.” What Luth said she likes best about her new boyfriend is all his little quirks: “It was always so cute how he would creepily half hit on me yet never have the courage to actually say how he really felt. All the little—but obvious—hints that he was the best guy for me, and way better than all my ex-boyfriends. Even when I was obviously dealing with problems of my own, it was almost genius how he managed to make it somehow about him, and how I should let him bang me.”

Luth said that a large part of how the happy couple ended up together was due to convenience. “I mean, we’re already comfortable around each other, plus his house is really close to mine.” Another factor that led to the merry union, according to Luth, was that the alternatives were beginning to look worse and worse. “It’s easy enough to find a guy online that I’m like, actually attracted to, but after a few bad hookups I think it’s just easier to play it safe. I know for a fact that Jim doesn’t have any STDs. I’m sure I’ll come to find him somewhat sexually attractive eventually. Until then, lights off I guess.”

“After all this time, it was worth pretending I was okay with being just friends,” Brant explained. “It’s really nice to finally have a nice guy win for once. About time too.”



Image via galleryhip.com

## Greatest winners of this year’s Super Bowl

> Many cashing in on abnormal bets

Chandler Walter  
Humour Editor

The grand and gluttonous ritual that is the American Super Bowl came and went this last weekend. While many yards were run, great throws were tossed, and chicken wings were eaten, there were only a select few true victors that came out of that glorious Sunday. Sports betting has always been a large and important part of the festivities, and this year was no different. Though, if caring about what actually happens in the game is not exactly your cup of beer, the powers that be have seen fit to incorporate pretty much anything about the game into an opportunity to take your money. Here are the lucky few that kept their hard-earned dollars, and then some.

Clive Lemmings—Los Angeles, California: Lemmings cashed in big time this past Sunday as he gathered around his flat screen TV with a few select friends. He had ironically

taken advantage of this year’s expansive prop betting options and put a small fortune down on the over under on “how many times the TV would show someone in the stands eating a hotdog.” Lemmings braved the glaringly skewed odds and, with each viewing of an American chowing down on meat and buns (five times in total), he grew richer by roughly \$10,000.

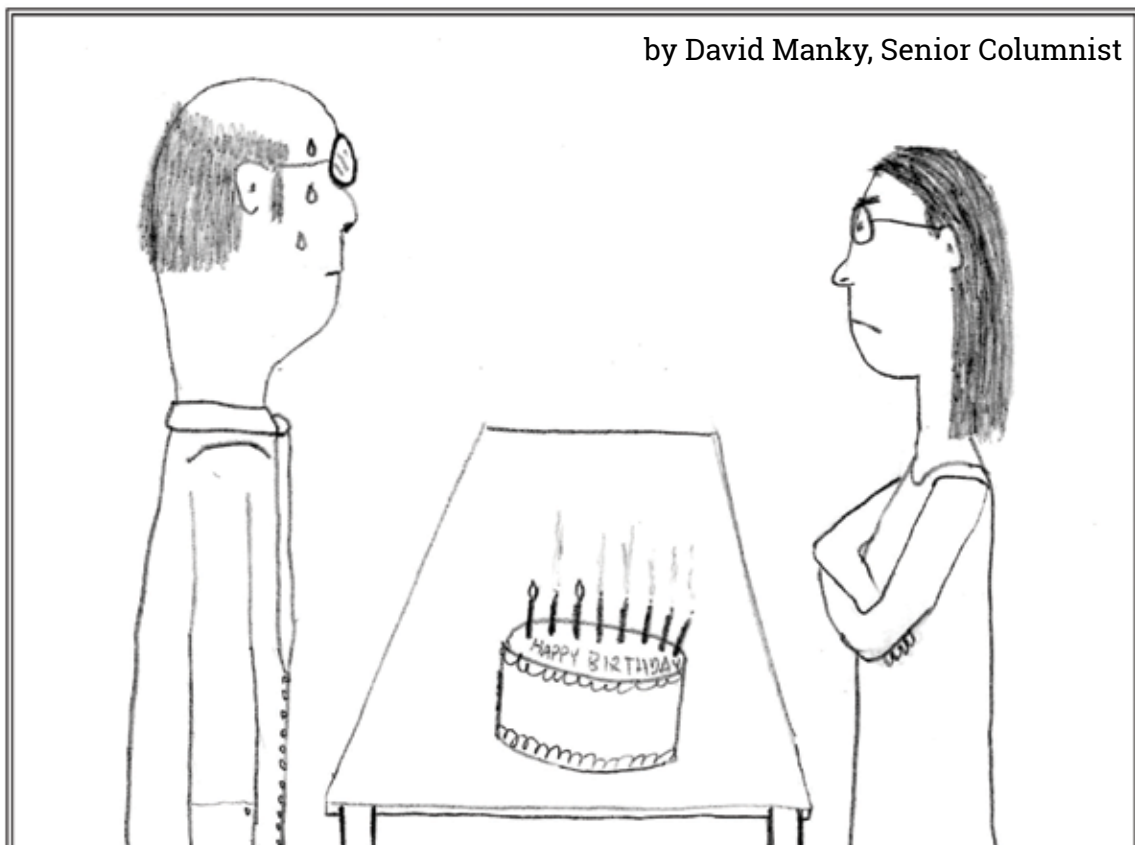
Jessica Tupples—Cheyenne, Wyoming: This lucky lady secured a hefty sum by placing an all or nothing bet on the exact number of chicken wings that would be sold by Buffalo Wild Wings during Super Bowl Sunday. She hit the chicken right on the pecker by rightly guessing 13,873,213, and went home with the same amount in cold hard American cash.

Alexander Ovechkin—Washington Capitals: Alexander Ovechkin, the sharp-shooting NHL star, heard wind that there was a prop bet this year pitting the number of touchdowns scored at this year’s Super Bowl against the number of shots on

goal Ovechkin would achieve in game that same night. Ovechkin placed his entire fortune on the under, and played his most selfish game of hockey that night, tripling his overall net worth. Word has it Ovechkin then retired from hockey and fled to northern Russia to avoid any illegal gambling charges laid against him.

Kevin Richards—Portland, Oregon: Richards is a part-time barista, part-time actor, and one who had no plans of watching football last Sunday. He had, however, planned on watching the halftime show, as he is a huge Beyoncé fan. Under pressure from his father, he placed a small bet on the choreography of Beyoncé’s background dancers, just so he could tell his father that he had “totally bet on the game, pops.” Lucky for Richards, he happened to predict the exact movements of every dancer’s feet, down to the two and a half missteps. Richards walked away with \$50,000 and a newfound respect for the truly American game of football.

by David Manky, Senior Columnist



Susan always had her suspicions, but this sealed it.





**DOUGLAS STUDENTS' UNION**

Local 18 — Canadian Federation of Students

**2016**

**AGM**

**MEETING**

**2016 Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday,  
February 17 – 2:30 PM**

**DSU Lounge**  
Students' Union Building

**New Westminster Campus**

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**For the agenda or more information,  
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